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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2551-130

Serial No. 10/685,435

Group: 1648

Filed: October 16, 2003

Examiner: Lucas

For: MULTI-MER PEPTIDES DERIVED FROM HEPATITIS C VIRUS ENVELOPE  
PROTEINS FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE AND VACCINATION PURPOSES

\* \* \* \* \*

January 12, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REQUEST**

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm the acceptance of the drawings filed with the application on October 16, 2003, or otherwise provide a specific objection or rejection of the same.

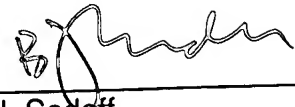
The Examiner is again requested to acknowledge the applicants claim for domestic priority as the Office Action of December 30, 2004 and the previously-issued Office Action do not include the same.

The present paper is not being filed in response to the Office Action of December 30, 2004, however, as the above indicated and requested items have not been received from the Patent Office as requested in the previously-filed Request of September 17, 2004, the applicants believe it timely to make such a request at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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